

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01600 211715Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00
 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 /086 W
 -----020030 220300Z /66

R 211635Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4965
INFO AMEMBASSE BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1600

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BH, CUON GY
SUBJECT: GUYANA FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS CONCERNING BELIZE
 SITUATION

1. FONMIN WILLS HAS AGAIN RAISED THE ISSUE OF BELIZE
WITH THE CHARGE. WILLS REFERRED TO A MESSAGE HE HAD
RECEIVED FROM AMBASSADOR MANN CONCERNING THE LATTER'S
DISCUSSION WITH PREMIER PRICE. ACCORDING TO MANN'S
REPORT, THE PREMIER HAD SAID THAT UNDER SECRETARY HABIB
SUGGESTED THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT MEDIATE BETWEEN
BELIZE AND GUATEMALA, AND PRICE HAD DECLINED THE OFFER.

2. WILLS REITERATED TO THE CHARGE HIS OFT-EXPRESSED
THEME THAT THE US HAS RESPONSIBILITY IN THE CARIBBEAN
AREA AND CONCERNING BELIZE. GUYANA RECOGNIZES THAT THE
US MUST EXERCISE CARE TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATION WITH
BOTH SIDES, BUT HE URGED THAT NO VACUUM BE LEFT FOR
THE CUBANS TO FILL. HE COMMENTED THAT CASTRO
NEEDS ADVENTURISM ABROAD FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL
REASONS.

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3. WILLS ALSO SAID HE HOPED THAT THE UNITED STATES
WOULD NOT SELL ARMS TO GUATEMALA. THIS WOULD BE
POLITICALLY MISINTERPRETED IN THE HEMISPHERE. HE
HAD HEARD A REPORT THAT ISRAEL WAS PLANNING TO SELL
ARMS TO GUATEMALA. HE HOPED THAT THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN
BECAUSE IT WOULD MAKE MORE DIFFICULT ISRAEL'S POSITION
IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. IF ALLIES OF THE US PROVIDE ARMS

TO GUATEMALA, IT WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS THE UNITED STATES USING THE BACKDOOR TO PROVIDE ARMS TO GUATEMALA.

4. WILLS EMPHASIZED THAT BELIZE WAS A GUT ISSUE AMONG THE LEADERSHIP IN GUYANA, BECAUSE OF THE IMPLICATIONS FOR PARTITION. PRIOR TO THE PNC ANNUAL CONGRESS IN AUGUST, WILLS WOULD BE REQUIRED BY BURNHAM TO SAY SOMETHING PUBLICLY ON THE BELIZE QUESTION.

5. COMMENT: THAT THE BELIZE ISSUE IS IMPORTANT TO THE GOG HAS NOW BEEN MADE REPEATEDLY CLEAR BY WILLS, AS HAS HIS DESIRE FOR THE US TO EXERCISE A ROLE IN FINDING A SOLUTION SUITABLE TO BELIZE. GUYANESE INSECURITIES OVER THEIR OWN BORDERS AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY PREDETERMINE THEIR ATTITUDE WHEN THE QUESTION OF PARTITION ARISES BE IT CONCERNING BELIZE, CYPRUS OR ZAIRE. WILLS EXPRESSES MUCH MORE CONCERN OVER CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA THAN IS APPARENT WITH BURNHAM OR OTHER TOP GUYANESE. WHETHER WILLS IS REALLY CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE CUBAN INTERVENTION IN BELIZE OR IS MERELY INVOKING THAT POSSIBILITY IN THE HOPE IT WILL STIR THE US TO ACTION IS UNCLEAR.
BLACKEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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ISecure: 1
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